

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Synchronisation mechanism for chairs or armchairs, of the type provided with a base ~~(1)~~, on which at least one seat frame ~~(2)~~ and at least one backrest frame ~~(3)~~ are hinged, at least one stiffening spring ~~(4)~~ positioned between said base and said backrest frame, in addition to a device for adjustment of the stiffness of said at least one spring comprising means ~~(5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)~~ to move one end ~~(15)~~ of said at least one spring with respect to its other end ~~(16)~~, characterised in that said means for moving one end of said at least one spring with respect to its other end comprise at least one cam element ~~(5)~~ hinged ~~(6)~~ to said base, said cam element acting on the end ~~(15)~~ to be moved of said at least one spring, the other end ~~(16)~~ of said at least one spring being linked to said backrest frame.

2. (Currently Amended) Mechanism according to claim 1, characterised in that said means for moving one end of said at least one spring with respect to its other end comprise at least one connecting rod ~~(7)~~, hinged ~~(8)~~ at one end to said base and engaged, at its other end ~~(9)~~, with the end to be moved of said at least one spring, and in that said cam element engages with said at least one connecting rod.

3. (Currently Amended) Mechanism according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterised in that said cam element is operated by means of a control stem ~~(14)~~ linked in rotation to said base.

4. (Currently Amended) Mechanism according to ~~any one of the preceding~~
~~claims~~claim 1, characterised in that said stiffening spring is a helical spring.

5. (Currently Amended) Mechanism according to ~~any one of the preceding~~
~~claims~~claim 1, characterised in that it comprises at least one movable striker element
(10) for anchoring of the end to be moved (15) of said at least one spring.

6. (Currently Amended) Mechanism according to claim 2 ~~and claim 5~~, in
which said movable striker element is linked in rotation to the end not hinged on said
base of said connecting rod.

7. (Currently Amended) Mechanism according to ~~any one of the preceding~~
~~claims~~claim 1, characterised in that said at least one spring (4) ~~is~~ arranged along an
axis substantially parallel to the horizontal.